# THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

EGREMONT ORIENTATION SESSION

OCTOBER 19, 2021

6PM

### OUTLINE

**Background** 

Grant
Compliance
& Reporting

**Eligible Uses** 

Ineligible Uses

Opportunities for Input & Impact

Survey

Q&A

Further Reading Links

### **BACKGROUND**

- Egremont has been awarded a Grant totaling \$360,183.20, through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 (Pub. Law No. 117-2), that became law on March 11,2021, and became effective May 17,2021
- The purpose of ARPA is to provide direct support to governments to help mitigate the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic
- U.S.Treasury has issued the Interim Final Rule and initial Compliance and Reporting Guidelines, that are not yet finalized

# GRANT COMPLIANCE & REPORTING

- The full ARPA Grant amount will be disbursed over two years - \$180,092 has been received to date; 2<sup>nd</sup> payment expected Summer, 2022
- Grant funds must be allocated by the end of calendar year 2024 and fully expended by the end of 2026
- Ist Annual Report due U.S. Treasury from Non-Entitlement Units of government (those with populations < 50,000) has been postponed from Oct. 31, 2021 until April 30, 2022.

# GRANT COMPLIANCE & REPORTING

- All expenditures are subject to Fed/state oversight rules, internal controls, municipal procurement laws and must include program details, statistics, performance metrics and comply with Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964
- ARPA Compliance and Reporting Guidance is being updated regularly, based on input from recipients across the U.S.
- The ARPA grant spending is restricted to four eligible categories - to benefit those most impacted by Covid and to upgrade historically-underfunded infrastructure

ARPA GRANT ELIGIBLE USES 2021-2024

- I) To respond to the ongoing Covid-19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, nonprofits, or industries with documented negative impacts, incurred between March 3, 2021 and Dec. 31, 2024
- 2) To provide premium pay to essential workers most at risk of exposure to coronavirus

# ARPA GRANT ELIGIBLE USES 2021-2024

- 3) For the provision of government services to the extent of municipal revenue loss (if any) due to the pandemic, during the last full fiscal year, and if loss is ongoing, thru subsequent years thru end of 2024
- 4) To invest in critical infrastructure drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems and broadband

## **INELIGIBLE USES**

#### ARPA Funds **MAY NOT** be used for:

- "Rainy Day" or Budget Reserve Fund replenishment
- Property or other local tax offsets
- Additions to public Pension Plans
- To service debt
- To satisfy legal judgments/settlements
- Line-item losses (only net Total Annual Budget loss can be considered)

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT & IMPACT

- The ARPA timeline (2021-2024) provides ample time to consider grant allocations
- Whenever possible, additional grant funding will be sought, to leverage limited ARPA funds and minimize impact to Town budget
- ARPA grant expenditures will be considered via requests from and discussion with departments, committees, boards and residents, during Select Board meetings

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT & IMPACT

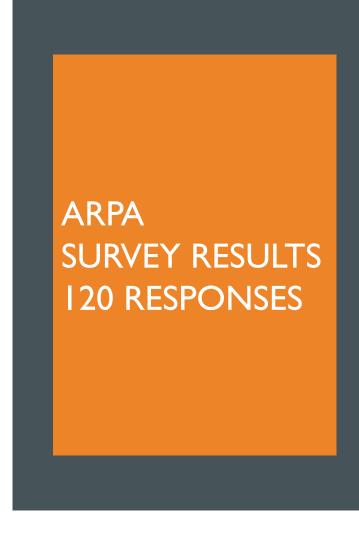
The timing of the ARPA Grant aligns perfectly with several recently-received grants, to complete critical Community-wide Plans:

- Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)
   -Climate change "all hazards" plan, led by MVP
   Committee (phase I)
- Master Plan Establishes a shared vision and template for growth and development, led by Planning Board
- Open Space & Recreation Plan led by Conservation Commission

Each requires extensive public participation, including multiple meetings and detailed surveys, to set Goals, Priorities, Action Steps. Plan(s) completion makes Town eligible for new grants for implementation!

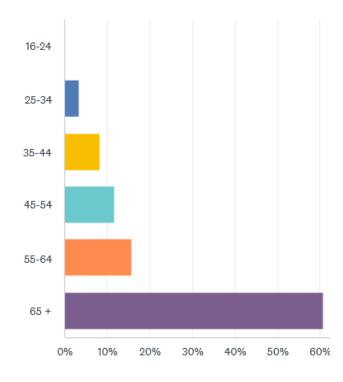
# ARPA SURVEY PURPOSES

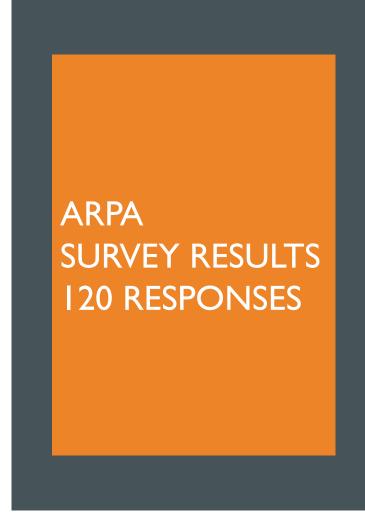
- This initial survey is for orientation to ARPA only to identify respondents' "top of mind" concerns across broad categories, consistent with ARPA guidelines
- To raise awareness about critical need for your participation in upcoming Planning initiatives, that will help to inform ARPA allocations
- Test the efficacy of survey software, to be integrated into planning efforts and embedded on the new Town website



### What is your age?

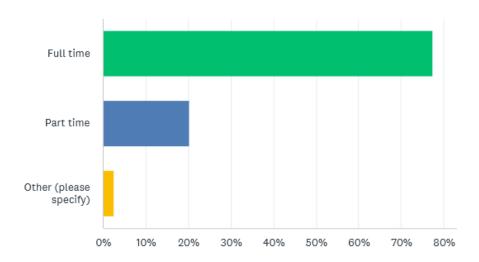
Answered: 120 Skipped: 0





### Are you a resident of Egremont?

Answered: 119 Skipped: 1



# ARPA SURVEY RESULTS 120 RESPONSES

### Top 5

- Create Affordable Housing (rental and ownership) 58%
- Expand Broadband Access & Affordability46%
- 3. Work to eliminate Food Insecurity 42%
- 4. Disaster & Severe Weather Prep & Pollution mitigation 41%
- 5. Support small business development 28%

# ARPA SURVEY RESULTS

### Responses 6-10

- 6. Improve Public Safety Facilities or Equipment 32 or 27%
- 7. Water, waste and stormwater 31 or 26%
- Support Health & Wellness Svcs for Elders
   28 or 23%
- 9. Work opportunities & training 26 or 22%
- Support Nonprofits & Social Services 25 or 21%

# ARPA SURVEY RESULTS

#### Responses 11-17

- II. Other Infrastructure 24 or 20%
- 12. Mental Health & Substance Abuse (20 or 16%)
- Health & Wellness for Teens/Younger (17 or 14%)
- 14. Direct Household Assistance (16 or 13%)
- 15. Economic Development (15 or 12%)
- 16. Tourism & Hospitality (11 or 9%)
- 17. Regional Partnerships (10 or 8%)



THANK YOU very much for participating!

#### Contact:

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ARPA Administrator

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- Congress of the United States via Congress.gov
   Public Law No. 117-2
- Department of the Treasury, 31 CFR Part 35
   Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery
   Funds (Interim Final Rule) May 17, 2021
- Department of the Treasury, Compliance and Reporting Guidance, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, June 24, 2021, Version 1.1
- Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery
   Funds, Frequently Asked Questions on
   Distribution of Funds to Non-entitlement Units
   of Local Government, June 30, 2021